



6515 S. Jackrabbit Trail, Buckeye, AZ 85326

**To:**

Environmental Protection Agency  
Janice Chan  
Kathleen H. Johnson

**Date:** 6/24/2016

**From:**

Shari Yeatts  
Hickman's Egg Ranch  
6515 S. Jackrabbit Trail  
Buckeye, AZ 85326

**Re:** Cover Letter for HER Request #3

**Request:** *Provide a narrative description of the process by which chicken litter and/or manure generated at the facilities is processed into compost/fertilizer. The narrative description should identify (i) steps of the process; (ii) the locations of the facilities where litter and manure are stored and where fertilizer is manufactured; and (iii) equipment used for manure turners, handling equipment, dryers, ovens, and units used for heat and steam treatment.*

The Fertilizer Department at Hickman's Family Farms has a primary purpose of waste remediation. This waste remediation process takes the manure produced by the laying hens and pullets at the Arlington and Tonopah farms and creates a Certified Organic Input Material (fertilizer) and a small amount of compost.

*(i) steps of the process*

A. *The steps of the process used to convert the manure to fertilizer are as follows:*

1. The manure is removed from the manure belt driven houses on a daily basis and placed in windrows on the fertilizer property located at Arlington. The manure from the barn houses is stored in the manure barns on the back ends of these houses and then it is removed and placed in windrows on the Fertilizer property located at Arlington.
2. The windrows on the fertilizer property are turned with a compost turner until the manure is sufficiently dry for further processing, at approximately 18% moisture.
3. The manure is then moved from the windrows to the screening area, where it is processed through a rotary shaker deck screener to remove any foreign material and any large chunks of manure.



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4. The manure is then processed through one of three machines:
  - a. Mill 1 is a 20" pellet mill used for the production of The Farms Choice Dehydrated Chicken Manure TURF Pellets 4-2-2.
  - b. Mill 2 is a 22" pellet mill used for the production of The Farms Choice Dehydrated Chicken Manure TURF Pellets 4-2-2 and The Farms Choice Dehydrated Chicken Manure Pellets 4-2-2 (Ag).
  - c. The Rotary Dryer is a 32' x 7' Drum Dryer that is used for the production of Heat Treated Chicken Manure 4-2-2 (Ag).

Three products are produced, both of the Ag products are Certified Organic Input Materials and are used by Organic growers in the Southwestern United States. The TURF product is used by golf courses and city parks.

*B. The steps of the process used to convert the manure to compost are as follows:*

1. The manure is removed from Manure Pit style Houses on a daily basis and placed in windrows on the fertilizer property at the Arlington Farm.
2. A similar amount of Green Waste is added to the windrow.
3. The windrows on the Fertilizer property at the Arlington Complex are turned with a compost turner a minimum of 5 times over 15 days while maintaining a moisture content of 40 to 60 percent and a temperature of 131° for a minimum of 3 days. Then turning continues until an appropriate moisture content is reached.

The Fertilizer processes very little compost but maintains the ingredients for making compost to meet the requirement of the Arizona Low Pathogen Avian Influenza Emergency Response Plan.

*(ii) the locations of the facilities where litter and manure are stored and where fertilizer is manufactured is:*

1. Hickman's Family Farms does not produce or store litter.
2. Manure is stored in the windrows at the Fertilizer property on the Arlington Farm, and in the Manure Barns of Arlington House 24, Pullet Houses H through J, and Tonopah Houses 1 through 9.
3. Fertilizer is produced at the Fertilizer property on the Arlington Complex Property.

*(iii) The equipment used for manure turners, handling equipment, dryers, ovens, and units used for heat and steam treatment is:*

1. Manure Turners - Case Farm Tractors and 12' HCL Machine Works Compost Turners
2. Handling Equipment
  - a. Road Tractors with Side dump or end dump Trailers
  - b. Front End Loaders
  - c. Fork Lifts
  - d. Reach Fork Lifts
3. Dryers - Vulcan 32' x 7' Drum Dryer
4. Oven - Engineered Systems & Equipment EX10 Drying Oven
5. Water Truck used for Dust Control in all aspects of the operation as needed.



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6. Units used for heat and steam treatment
  - a. Vulcan 32' x 7' Drum Dryer
  - b. California Pellet Mill Model 3020 Pellet Mill
  - c. California Pellet Mill Model 7000 Pellet Mill
  - d. Seattle Boiler
  - e. Systems & Equipment EX10 Drying Oven
  - f. Water Truck Engineered used for Dust Control in all aspects of the operation as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shari Yeatts".

Shari Yeatts  
Compliance Manager / HACCP Coordinator  
Hickman's Family Farms  
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